

County of Los Angeles  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

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August 17, 2004

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**WAIVE ADMISSIONS FEES TO COUNTY MUSEUMS  
FOR CalWORKS AND REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE AND  
FOOD STAMP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN  
(ALL DISTRICTS - 3 VOTES)**

**JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, MUSEUM OF ART,  
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, AND ARTS COMMISSION THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Waive admissions fees, beginning October 1, 2004, to Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and extend Los Angeles County Museum of Art free admission program for children and their accompanying adult to low-income families receiving CalWORKs/Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and/or Food Stamp benefits upon presentation of the California Advantage Card. There is no fiscal impact.
2. Instruct the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Executive Director of the Arts Commission to request other museums in the County to grant free access for the same population.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended action is to give families receiving CalWORKs/RCA and Food Stamp benefits the opportunity to experience, at no cost, family-focused events and exhibits that will expand their knowledge of art, culture and history.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended action is consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 5: Children and Families' Well-Being as measured by achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health; economic well-being; safety and survival; social and emotional well-being; and education/workforce readiness.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no direct fiscal impact to the museums to provide free access to these children and their families. Since low-income families generally cannot afford the entrance fees to museums, the museums will not lose paid admissions as a result of these recommendations. Furthermore, the Museum of Art already offers free admission to children and one accompanying adult. However, there may be some impact on operational costs, to the extent that implementation of these recommendations results in increased attendance at the museums.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

With the implementation of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), all families receiving CalWORKs/RCA and/or Food Stamps now have the California Advantage Card. This standard form of identification makes it possible to offer new opportunities to low-income children and their families.

Earlier this year, DPSS worked collaboratively with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in making the Ford Amphitheater's 12 summer family programs (known as 2004 BIG!WORLD!FUN!) free to CalWORKs/RCA and Food Stamp families. The Arts Commission developed a flier about the programs and DPSS mailed it to the County's CalWORKs/RCA and Food Stamp families. Free admission is conditional upon presentation of the California Advantage Card.

These recommendations build on this prior collaboration with the Arts Commission. In addition to the intrinsic benefit of free admission to the Natural History Museum and the Museum of Art, adoption of these recommendations by your Board may provide the stimulus for other museums throughout the County to offer similar low/no-cost programs to low-income families.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**


These recommendations will expand current services to low-income families, as well as promote museum visits as a viable leisure time alternative.

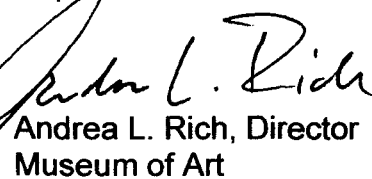
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**CONCLUSION**


The Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return one (1) adopted stamped Board Letter to each department.

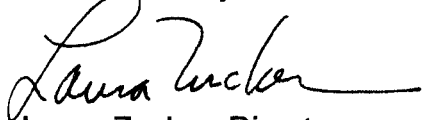
Respectfully submitted,

  
Bryce Yokomizo, Director  
Department of Public Social Services

  
Andrea L. Rich, Director  
Museum of Art

BY:fw

  
Jane G. Pisano, Director  
Natural History Museum

  
Laura Zucker, Director  
Los Angeles County Arts Commission

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel